

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Bahrain to Upgrade Environmental Protection Regulations**

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A variety of environmental issues were raised during Bahrain's National Dialogue, and a panel of experts, led by commission director-general Dr. Al Zayani, will compile the report and refer recommendations to the government for implementation.

"We have got a clear picture of what needs to be done and will comply with what was agreed during the talks" said commission director-general, Dr. Adel Al Zayani.

New environmental regulatory reforms will include stricter licensing to control industrial pollution levels. Protective regulations will also be implemented to create and conserve biologically diverse environments throughout Bahrain.

"Environmental protection consists of many aspects that have to be looked into, including sea, air, land, biodiversity, housing and living space... It is a huge undertaking and this plan is a must, especially in order to comply with international standards of environmental protection," continued Dr. Al Zayani,

The environmentally focused commission is made up of a variety of specialized teams that will speed up the drafting and implementation process of the environmental reforms.

The report will be reviewed by the commission president Shaikh Abdulla bin Hamad Al Khalifa before being submitted to Bahrain's Cabinet. "This is a huge opportunity for us to make our environment the best and safest for all those living on this land," said Dr Al Zayani concluded.

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This has been distributed by Qorvis Communications on behalf of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Source: Kingdom of Bahrain
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Bahrain's Deputy Premier Pledges Swift Implementation Process for National Dialogue Reforms

MANAMA (August 19, 2011)- Sheikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, Bahrain's Deputy Premier and head of the committee overseeing the implementation of National Dialogue recommendations pledged to fulfill the goals of Bahrain's successful National Dialogue.

Sheikh Mohammed met with Shura Council chairman Ali Saleh Al Saleh and parliament chairman Khalifa Al Dhahrani to set out the implementation plan for reforms which were referred to His Majesty King Hamad by National Dialogue attendees.

Sheikh Mohammed discussed the phase ahead for the government and the need to codify the National Dialogue's reforms into Bahrain's law. "What we are concerned about in this phase is that legislative and executive powers draft laws and constitutional amendments that meet citizens' aspirations," he said.

Sheikh Mohammed hailed the executive and legislative powers for working together on this reform process which will go to improve the lives of all Bahrainis. He noted that the laws will soon be put into action.

Mr. Al Saleh and Mr. Al Dhahrani pledged that they will work alongside the government to speed up the implementation process of National Dialogue reforms.

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Source: Gulf Daily News

Contact: Matt Lauer

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Statement of the Bahrain Ministry of Interior on the Questioning of Nabeel Rajab

MANAMA, August 20, 2011 -- On the evening of August 19, 2011, the General Director of the Northern Governorate Police in Bahrain announced that Mr. Nabeel Rajab had been summoned for routine questioning about false and potentially incendiary information being conveyed through his website in social media. Mr. Rajab was summoned openly and in full accordance with Bahraini law. He was not arrested or detained, and he left the police offices within one hour.

The government of Bahrain has become increasingly concerned that unconfirmed and potentially incendiary information could incite fear and anger that might lead to public disturbances and even violence.

The government of Bahrain supports the freedom of its citizens to express their political opinions and acknowledges that opinions from many different individuals and groups can play a positive role in the national reconciliation process. The government, however, is deeply concerned that unconfirmed rumors or incendiary information issued by any well-known organization or individual could create a dangerous situation in which lives and property are placed at risk.

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This has been distributed by Qorvis Communications on behalf of the Kingdom of Bahrain. More information is available at the United States Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

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Source: Bahrain Ministry of Interior

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bahrain's Industry Sector Exceeds Last Year's Growth

MANAMA—August 18, 2011—To meet the country's growing industrial demand, Bahrain has launched an extensive business park initiative to develop land for the hundreds of new businesses that have registered in recent months.

"The demand [for industrial land in Bahrain] exceeds supply 10 fold, there is a tremendous demand for industry," Industry and Commerce Minister Dr. Hassan Fakhro said.

The park, located near aluminum company Alba, will offer 250 plots of land at 1,000 square meters each. The site is owned by the private sector company Ahmed Mansour Al Ali Company and will be regulated by the Industry and Commerce Ministry.

The industry sector has not only rebounded from this year's earlier unrest but has surpassed 2010's numbers.

"Trade and industry is not only back to normal, it is exceeding last year," Minister Fakhro said. "The number of companies that have registered in our investment centre and commercial registration facilities in the last three months—May, June and July—is 30 percent more compared to the same time last year. So we are not only back to normal, we are exceeding normal."

Officials expect the park to attract food processing and aluminum-related companies. The land also lends itself to construction, renewable energy, chemicals, oil and gas, pharmaceuticals, logistics and warehousing sectors.

Minister Fakhro hopes the project will lead to billions of dollars of investment in Bahrain.

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Source: Kingdom of Bahrain

Contact: Rose Sager

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AMBASSADOR HOUDA NONOO WELCOMES NOMINATION OF THOMAS KRAJESKI AS UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO BAHRAIN

WASHINGTON, D.C.—June 29, 2011—Bahrain's Ambassador to the United States, Houda Nonoo, welcomed today the nomination of Thomas J. Krajeski as U.S. Ambassador to Bahrain.

"President Obama's nomination of Ambassador Krajeski demonstrates the United State's continued support of democracy in Bahrain and the Middle East," Ambassador Nonoo said. "Pending the Senate's review and approval, I look forward to working with Ambassador Krajeski in the months ahead during our ongoing process of political transformation. Our strong, enduring partnership with the United States will help make for a stronger, more democratic Bahrain."

A career Foreign Service officer, Krajeski is currently the Senior Vice President of the National Defense University and has served in a number of senior diplomatic roles in the Middle East, including as U.S. Ambassador to Yemen from 2004-2007.

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Source: Embassy of Bahrain

Contact: Matt Lauer

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**KING HAMAD OF BAHRAIN ANNOUNCES CREATION OF INDEPENDENT
FACT FINDING COMMISSION IN NATIONALLY TELEVISED SPEECH**

WASHINGTON, D.C.—June 30, 2011— In a nationally televised speech, His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa discussed Bahrain's current state of affairs and announced the formation of an independent fact-finding Commission that will look into the events that occurred in February and March of 2011.

"Citizens have the right to put [forward] their demands without being met violently; and in return, freedom must be exercised responsibly," His Majesty said. "Freedom of expression must not be exploited as a way to disturb public order".

The King stressed on the importance of meaningful dialogue and said that with "a dialogue of national consensus, encompassing the views of all sectors of Bahraini society, we can write a new chapter in our history." He described Bahrain as a, "land of Civilizations, where unprecedented men have set examples in giving, selflessness, loyalty to this homeland, and love of its fine people regardless of their color, race, religion or sect." He expressed his hope that all Bahrainis unite to address shared concerns in order to bring about a prosperous future for the country.

The independent fact finding committee was appointed after broad consultations with parties including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCR). The commission brings together a team of politically independent figures with extensive expertise in international human rights law. Those individuals have been selected because of their international achievements.

The committee will submit its report to the Bahraini Government which in return will take the necessary action in response to its findings. His Majesty, King Hamad believes, "that its findings will reveal the truth" and will assist all Bahrainis "in putting events of the past behind us, as we move towards a brighter future of unity and cohesion."

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